



**The Virginia Soil Health Coalition
Quarterly Meeting
June 1st, 2023
1:00-3:00 PM**

Agenda

1-1:15: Welcome!

- ❖ Dr. Mike Gutter, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension

1:15-1:50: Panel conversation: “Addressing the soil health technical assistance gap: Challenges and opportunities for cropping systems”

Panelists:

- ❖ Anne Coates, Executive Director, Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District
- ❖ Dwight Forrester, District Conservationist, Tappahannock, Virginia NRCS
- ❖ Dr. Sarah Hirsch, Agriculture Extension Agent, Maryland Cooperative Extension
- ❖ Tim Woodward, Chief Operation Officer, Virginia Seed Company

Facilitated by Dr. Kendall Tyree, Executive Director, VA Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

In this panel, we will dig into some of the existing challenges and opportunities specific to soil health-related technical assistance for row crop farmers. We will hear from leading on-the-ground partners from NRCS, SWCDs, Extension, and private industry on what is working to increase outreach to producers in their region, what is still needed to support getting more soil health practices on the ground, and where partnerships and collaboration can help fill gaps and needs. Following the panel, we will open breakout rooms to dig deeper into the topic with the panelists and other Coalition partners- bring your questions, ideas, and energy!

**We recognize that the challenges and opportunities around technical assistance extend far beyond the scope of this panel and plan to have additional conversations focused on diversified production, reaching historically underserved producers, and other components of the multifaceted issue. These two panels will also lay the foundation for a third critical conversation on the statewide/policy side of the coin. Stay tuned for more information on these upcoming discussions.*

1:50-2:15: TA panel follow-up: Breakout room Q&A/conversation with panelists

2:15-2:30: 4 The Soil: Next Steps and Listening Sessions with Social Impact Studios

2:30-2:45: Coalition update: Implementing the Strategic Plan & developing Innovation Teams

2:45-3:00: Announcements + closing